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Projecting the Bengals' picks in first 3 rounds

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

8 things to know about antibody testing

2 providers have started testing in Cincinnati

Anne Saker
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

The words flash past on social media feeds ... *antibody testing* ... without much clarity about what the phrase means in the fight against the novel coronavirus in the Cincinnati area.

Key questions remain including how accurate specific versions of the test are.

Here are eight things to know about this tool, what it can and can't do, and where you can get such a test in the Cincinnati area.

Looking into the past

Antibody testing is different from the widespread testing that public health officials have sought in the nearly three months since the new virus arrived in the United States.

Viral molecular testing, done with a nasal swab, is looking at the here and now for the immediate presence of the pathogen. Antibody testing of blood looks in the past for the trace evidence that the body has fought off infection.

What are antibodies?

When a virus infects you, your

See ANTIBODY, Page 7A

Tracey Prewitt tests patients with a COVID antibodies on Tuesday in Mariemont. ALBERT CESARE/THE ENQUIRER

The Beam of Hope, the newest edition to the Cincinnati skyline, encourages solidarity as the region lives through the COVID-19 pandemic. The partners who put together BLINK installed the light on Friday. The beam will light up the sky each night until the pandemic is "under control," according to the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. The attraction features six Clay Paky Mythos high-density light units, each producing 23,000 lumens. KAREEM ELGAZZAR/THE ENQUIRER

Trouble looming for fund, Ohio leaders say

Unemployment system may be insolvent by June

Jessie Balmert and Jackie Borchardt
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLUMBUS – Ohio's unemployment compensation fund wasn't in great shape before the novel coronavirus. Now, state leaders estimate it will be insolvent sometime in June.

That means Ohio will have a choice: borrow money from the federal government, add fees to employers or limit employees' benefits going forward.

"There are a variety of ways you can go about addressing it," Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said Wednesday.

Ultimately, Ohio lawmakers will be tasked with finding a solution.

See CORONAVIRUS, Page 7A

What is a probable case? Ohio sharing new number

Jessie Balmert
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLUMBUS - Ohio just started to report "probable" cases of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

For everyone without a degree in epidemiology or public health, this new definition might be a little confusing.

But the concept isn't new to disease tracking. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracks both "confirmed" and "probable" cases of the avian flu. Confirmed and probable cases of the measles are treated similarly by the CDC.

The Enquirer explains what is a probable COVID-19 case, why Ohio is reporting that number now and what it can tell us going forward about the virus' spread in the state.

What is a probable case?

Let's start with what a probable case isn't, and that's a confirmed case.

See PROBABLE, Page 7A

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